

ZONE 6 SPORT STURGEON FACT SHEET No. 3

June 30, 2004

Purpose: To consider modifications to the sport fishing seasons for sturgeon in John Day Reservoir.

The John Day Reservoir sport harvest guideline is 165 white sturgeon for 2004. We estimate 138 white sturgeon were harvested from John Day Reservoir from January 1 through June 27, 2004 (Table 1). Harvest was estimated by applying harvest per hour of effort to estimated total effort. Approximately 27 percent of the estimated 138 sturgeon harvest was sampled in the creel.

From May 1 through June 27, harvest was estimated weekly by expanding numbers of sturgeon observed in the sampled creel by the January through April average sample rate, corrected by the numbers of days per week creel checkers worked the reservoir.

The number of fish observed in the creel and weekly estimated harvest has increased over the last six weeks, with significant increases 3 weeks ago and last week. Harvest averaged 2.1 fish per week from May 1 through June 27 and ranged from a low of zero fish seven weeks ago to a high of 17 fish last week. Assuming harvest will average ten fish per week from this point on, the 165 fish guideline would be reached during the week of July 12-18.

Table 1. Sample data, estimated, and projected harvest for John Day Reservoir, 2004.

Month/Week	Monthly or weekly sample rate	Average weekly # of fish in-sample	Monthly or weekly harvest estimate	Cumulative harvest
January	0.17	1	6	6
February	0.20	2	10	16
March	0.24	11	45	61
April	0.19	6	32	93
May 1-9	----	0	0	93
May 10-16	----	0	0	93
May 17-23	0.25	1	4	97
May 24-30	0.25	1	4	101
May 31-Jun 6	0.33	1	3	104
Jun 7-13	0.25	2	8	112
Jun 14-20	0.33	3	9	121
Jun 21-27	0.29	5	17	138
May 31-Jun 27 average/week	0.30	3.0	10	
Jun 28-Jul 4			10	148
Jul 5-11			10	158
Jul 12-18 (guideline 165)			10	168

Estimated annual Zone 6 sport and commercial harvest and corresponding harvest guidelines for 1996-2003 are presented in the attached spreadsheet. Preliminary treaty Indian commercial harvest estimates for 2004 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Estimated white sturgeon harvest during 2004 treaty Indian commercial fisheries, by reservoir.

	Bonneville Reservoir	The Dalles Reservoir	John Day Reservoir
Harvest guideline	400	900	335
Estimated harvest	500	1,017	323